



1893 Bethany Lutheran Church (6)

Sponsored by  
Clatsop County Historical Society

Advance ticket sales at

**The Heritage Center**  
**1618 Exchange Street**  
**Astoria, OR 97103**  
**(503) 325-2203**

Tour Day sales at first house,  
369 37th Street

**Full Tour..... \$7.50**

includes 5 houses, 1 church, and  
refreshments

**Half Tour..... \$4.00**

includes 2 houses, church and  
refreshments

**Bonus Tour:** Franklin Street Station  
Bed and Breakfast Inn  
1140 Franklin Ave.  
Astoria, Oregon

# 1986 HOLIDAY HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

## Immigrant Christmases In Upper Astoria

**December 13th - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**December 14th - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**





### EARLY HISTORY OF UPPER ASTORIA

In 1849, Captains White and Hustler arrived in Astoria and brought the first pilot boat to operate on the Columbia River bar, the Mary Taylor. This led to increased trade for the town and the establishment of boarding houses for crews and passengers of vessels that stopped here either to complete their cargoes of lumber or salt salmon, or wait for a favorable wind.

When Col. John Adair, the first collector of customs arrived at Astoria in the same year, he occupied the McClure house and tried to secure land from the different owners on which to build the customhouse. The owners refused to donate land and fixed the price at a figure which Adair considered too high. The result was his locating the first U.S. customhouse on the Pacific coast at Upper Astoria. The location of the second, built in 1852, is marked with a sign on the south side of Leif Erickson Drive just east of 33rd Street. At the time, it was on the river bank---all the flat land here was filled with dredge material following the construction of the railroad in 1898.

(Continued on last page.)



## THE TOUR

Welcome to the 1986 Holiday Homes Tour. We trust it will be an effective way to help restore the Heritage Center Museum and Art Gallery and improve the Flavel Mansion---two major projects of the Clatsop County Historical Society.

Today it is our privilege to visit some homes and a church built by newly arrived immigrants who, by and large, chose Astoria as the place to seek their fortunes in this new country. A high priority for most was learning English, becoming citizens, and raising their families as young Americans. Christmas, however, was a time to continue family traditions from the old country. We hope that you will learn of some of these special recipes, decorations, and feelings while you enjoy the architectural flavor of Upper Astoria.

(From Highway 30, named Leif Erickson Drive to honor the majority of Upper Town residents, turn south on 37th Street. Park in the first available space. If there is none in the first block, turn left rather than right on Duane Street.)

### 1. Otto P. Peterson House (circa 1883) 369 37th Street

This handsome two-bay Italianate house has been the center of attention on this street since a previous owner recognized its beauty and gave it an attractive combination of exterior paint colors. In rehabilitating the interior he built an unusual corner bay window upstairs on the back side to take advantage of the fine river view. The present owners, Venny Keuscher and Don Neal, have filled the house with antique furnishings and unique collections. It is a good way to start the tour. Otto Peterson was a Swedish carpenter and fisherman who lived here until he died in 1930.

(At Duane Street, turn left. You will pass 3720 Duane St. which has recently been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is believed to be the oldest house in Upper Astoria, having been built by Swedish immigrant Andrew Young in 1875. It is probably Astoria's best preserved small house of the period and represents a style much more common than the elaborate Victorians for which Astoria is famous. In 1874, Andrew Young married Johanna Frederickson of Denmark. In 1887, they sold the house to Jens Nielsen whose family owned it until 1973.

(Park here or as soon as you turn the corner on 38th St., as the driveway to the next house is restricted to pedestrians today.)

### 2. Hans Steffenson House (1895) 368 38th Street

When Astoria Box Company teamster Norwegian immigrant Steffensen built this house, little did he dream it would be world famous as the location of the popular Stephen Spielberg movie THE GOONIES. One of our favorite shots was of the Upper Town hillside crowded with its Scandinavian-style houses. Owner Helen Fuller invites us to enjoy the breathtaking view from her porch and living room (Other rooms not open this time).

(Park again if necessary just after you pass under the Franklin Street Bridge. To reach House No. 3, follow the sidewalk up the west end of the bridge. This will save you from yet another dead end street.)



3. Bangsund/Dybvik Duplex (circa 1905) 3761 Franklin Avenue

Now remodeled into a one-family home, this house tells us that not all multiple family houses were divided by later owners. Duplexes and boarding houses were part of the turn-of-the-century scene. The house is named for the two Norwegian families thought to be the first renters. Current owners are Jerry and Gayle Schell. Both artists, they own THE EDGE art gallery, 120 10th Street. Their interesting house will appeal to modern art lovers.

4. Iver Nelson House (circa 1907) 685 38th Street

Another Norwegian, Nelson was a laborer at Astoria Box Co. A more famous resident, 1913-1915, was John E. Johnson, a boat builder who while living here started carving duck decoys marked JJ on the bottom. Collectors now value them at several hundred dollars. Present owner, Patricia Longnecker, is manager of the Columbia River Maritime Museum Shop. We are glad to see her artistic rehabilitation of this historic small house.

(While you are making the necessary illegal U-turn at 38th & Grand, notice the monkey puzzle tree on the southwest corner. It is officially the largest in Oregon---measuring the circumference of the trunk. Nils Olsen planted it about 1904 when he built the house.

(Returning to Duane Street, just after crossing 37th, you will find the Benjamin Young mansion, 3652 Duane. Built in 1888 by Andrew Young's elder brother, it was the second Astoria house to be listed on the National Register. The Young brothers were involved in organizing the Fisherman's Packing Co. and the Scandinavian Packing Co. in the 1870's. In the 1880's, they shared in the Alaska fishing industry and spent much time on the Skeena and Nushagak rivers and Chignak Bay. Much of the profit from these ventures were poured into local business investments such as the Young Building, 1916, which stands on the corner of 14th & Commercial. Benjamin's daughter, Dr. Clara Waffle inherited the house. Last year her granddaughter sold all the contents to sell the house.

(Continuing up 36th Street, turn right on Franklin and pass John Jacob Astor school, designed by Finnish immigrant John E. Wicks in 1925 (See CCHS quarterly magazine CUMTUX, Vol. 6, No. 4). On the northwest corner of 35th & Franklin is the Christian Leinenweber House, circa 1880, now being restored. Park wherever you can and walk down 35th Street to House No. 5. Behind both is a house, now for sale, built in the 1890's as the Leinenwebers' carriage barn. It was made into a residence about 1910.)

5. Charles Turina House (1916) 529<sup>31</sup> 35th Street

Besides the Scandinavians, other immigrant groups in Upper Astoria were the German, the Chinese whose vegetable and pork farm flourished in what is now Harrison Drive, and the Yugoslavian. The latter can usually be identified by names ending in "ich" like Andrich, Antonich, and Mardesich. We are glad to have this house on our tour, for the Catholic tradition of Yugoslavs provides a refreshing diversity to the neighborhood. Charles Turina was foreman for Booth Fisheries Co. Present owner Michael O'Brien is his son's stepson. Michael and Cynthia have retained the original flavor of the house---a beautiful place for raising their young family.



6. Bethany Lutheran Church (1893) 3432 Franklin Avenue

Organized in 1890, this was a Norwegian speaking congregation until recent times. The church has changed little since it was built, including the basement where the church ladies will serve refreshments on Saturday.

Turning up the hill on 34th Street, on the northeast corner of 34th & Grand is the lovely house (1892) built for Gustavus \_\_\_\_\_ born in Sweden in 1846. Holmes was a partner with the Young brothers in cannery ownership, and he served as foreman at their plant on the Fraser River. The house has been on our tours many times while owned by the Collins family. Capt. Ray Collins was president of CCHS for several years.

Traveling west on Grand, notice the Jacob C. Utzinger House (1895), 3356 Grand. Utzinger was one of the owners of the North Pacific Brewery which was then located across Grand Ave. from the \_\_\_\_\_ House. Later the house was sold to Adolph Hauke, clerk at the E. Hauke Grocery Store. On the southwest corner of 33rd and Grand is First Lutheran Church. In 1984, the congregation celebrated its centennial. The original church was on the southwest corner of 29th & Grand where it also served the Norwegian community. See CUMTUX, Vol. 4 No. 1.

Just around the bend of Grand Avenue, on the southwest corner of 31st and Grand is the John Jackson House (1883) which is the oldest house in Astoria known to have been built by a Finn. Jackson's original name was Johan Niemela. See CUMTUX, Vol. 2, No. 3.

Returning to Highway 30, on the northwest corner of 30th and Marine Drive, you will be attracted to the largest brick building on the Oregon coast--- the beer cooling house for the North Pacific Brewery (1896). The ornate Bavarian-style wooden brew house burned sometime during Prohibition. In 1928 the City commissioned architect John Wicks to remodel the cooling house into the Upper Town Fire Station. The original architect was Danish born Emil Schacht who also designed Astoria's city hall in 1905, now being restored by CCHS as a general history museum. Located at 16th & Exchange Steets, it is open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday refreshments will be served by Renee Caldwell at FRANKLIN STREET STATION Bed & Breakfast Inn at 1140 Franklin Avenue in Lower Astoria from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. It was built in 1905 by German immigrant Ferdinand Fisher for his son Earl's wedding present. On Saturday, you may also tour the inn from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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CCHS dates to remember:

Jane Barnes Day, May 16, 1987: Parade, ice cream social, selection of Miss J. B.

Historic Homes Tour, August 15-16, 1987

Oregon Dixieland Jubilee, October 9 - 11, 1987

Holiday Homes Tour, December 12 & 13, 1987

For further information, call (503)325-2203

Program notes by Bruce Berney, Astoria Public Library  
Photographs by Gayle Schell



## EARLY HISTORY OF UPPER ASTORIA (Continued from inside front cover)

Around the classically styled one-room customhouse a town sprang up, known variously as Astoria, Upper Astoria, Upper Town, and Adairville. Only water transportation connected it with Lower Astoria, and competition for ascendancy was keen. In 1853, T. P. Powers, who resided in Upper Astoria, succeeded Mr. Shively as postmaster. He moved the post office to a building near the customhouse. This left Lower Astoria without a federal office and helped to build up its rival.

With the change in national administration in 1861, new officers who were friendly to the lower town were appointed, and the two offices were returned to Lower Astoria. In 1862, ten-year resident of Upper Town Capt. Hiram Brown realized that Lower Astoria had won. Wanting to live in the center of activity, he had his house put on a barge and moved down river. It is now the oldest house in Astoria, located at 1337 Franklin Avenue. See WALKING TOUR OF ASTORIA, for sale at museum shops.

The importance of Upper Town surged during the 1870's with the rapid building of the salmon canning industry. Badollet & Co. built in Upper Astoria in 1873. In 1875, the Hanthorn Cannery was built. (Recently known as the Bumble Bee cold storage plant, it now is owned by Astoria Seafoods Co. The original building still exists as the upper floor of the west wing.) By 1890, major industries in Upper Town included the Badollet, Hanthorn, Fisherman's, Point Adams, Booth, West Coast, Occident, and Columbia canneries, North Pacific Brewery, Leinenweber's tannery, and McGregor's Astoria Box Co. mill.

At the same time, immigrants from Europe arrived in Astoria---many with fishing and lumbering skills. Norwegians, Swedes, and Danes became the dominant nationalities in Upper Town. Names of known residents before 1900 whose houses still stand include: Amundson, Anderson, Berry, Brakke, Cornelius, Crang, Ericksen, Hannula, Helander, Hendricksen, Holmes, Iverson, Jackson, Jacobson, Kearney, Knutsen, Larson, Leinenweber, Liefur, Lindberg, Moore, Nelson, Olsen, Pedersen, Rauma, Rytinki, Schofield, Schroeder, Simonson, Steffensen, Suti, Svensen, Welch, and Young.

In 1903, Astoria attorney Alfred A. Cleveland wrote in the Oregon Historical Quarterly, "Astoria at the present day is a cosmopolitan city of about ten thousand inhabitants, composed largely of foreigners. In the last city election, out of a total of eleven hundred names registered, nearly six hundred were of foreign birth. Of this number 170 were natives of Finland, 87 of Sweden, 72 of Norway, 64 of Germany, and 40 of Denmark."

Before the arrival of the Scandinavians' Lutheran churches, the religious life of Upper Astoria centered at Holy Innocents chapel, a mission of Grace Episcopal Church downtown. The chapel was built in 1874 and lasted until 1918. First Lutheran Church now occupies the site. See YEARS OF GRACE: A History of Grace Episcopal Church, 1886-1986.

Another mission was the Norwegian-Danish Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1882. The building was at 37th & Duane streets. It was merged with First Methodist Episcopal Church in 1932. This explains why the present church still serves an annual smorgasbord.







1883 Otto P. Peterson House ①



1907 Iver Nelson House ④



1895 Hans Steffenson House ②



1905 Bangsund / Dybvik Duplex ③



1916 Charles Jurina House ⑤